Hamilton Gazette - Jan 5, 1852 Browse this newspa

STOLEN GOODS DETECTED.—A few days since, a large quantity of stolen Goods were discovered on the premises of a man named Cresswell, in this city.—Guns, Powder, Hardware of various kinds. Dry Goods, Groceries, including some Chests of Tea Potatoes Apples, and in fact a variety of every thing requisite for a small store were found secreted about the house. Some of the things have been identified by the owners as having been stolen from them two or three years ago. The circumstances which led to the detection of this wholesale thief were rather singular, and show that although crime may escape awhile, justice sooner or later will find out the criminal, and mete out to him a just reward. It appears that Mr. Gage living some three or four miles from the city lost several bundles of shingles, and on searching found some of them in an adjoining Inlet and also discovered the track of a small hand sleigh which he traced until it led to the house of Cresswell. While following the track he found a small piece of the sleigh which had apparently been broken off by striking the fence, and on the premises being searched a sleigh was there with a piece broken off, and the piece found exactly fitted. This led to a further search of the premises, when an indescribable quantity of stolen goods were discovered It does not appear that he had any accomplices. We understand that he has confessed to the taking of the shingles out of Mr Gage's Barn, but he gives various accounts of the getting of the rest of the property. He has been fully committed to stand his trial by G. H. Armstrong, Esq., and we have no doubt but that he will get his deserts.

Jan. 15, 1852

FATAL ACCIDENT.—On Monday afternoon last, as a number of the Railway laborers were engaged filling earth in a cutting of some 10 feet in depth in Mr. J. D. Campbell's field, near Galt, a large frozen piece of earth, weighing about 300 lbs, was suddenly and unexpectedly precipitated from the summit of the bank, and falling directly on the head and body of a laborer named Patrick Donevan, his head was literally smashed and his death instantaneous.

This occurrence, the first casualty in the line, was purely accidental and unforseen, and no blame whatever is attached to any one engaged upon the works. An inquest on the body was shortly afterwards held by the Coroner, in a shanty close by; Mr. J. D. Campbell being elected foreman, when a verdict in accordance with the facts of "accidental death from the falling of earth," was returned by the Jury.—*Dumfries Reformer.*

Jan. 19, 1852

THE WEATHER.—The weather last week was extremely cold and stormy. the sleighing at present is beautiful, but until yesterday, there was so little snow on the ground, that one warm day, would have made it bare in the city. We anticipate good sleighing for some time to come.

Hamilton Gazette - Feb 2, 1852 Browse this newspaper » Bro

A WONDERFUL DISCOVERY.—The laborers on the section of the Great Western Railroad which passes over, or rather through the Burlington heights, near this city, dug up the tusks and jaw bone of an elephant, on Wednesday last, which are now at the Railroad office, and have already attracted the attention of visitors. The tusks, one of which is perfect, and the other but slightly decayed at the end, measured 6 feet 9 inches; and the jaw bone, which is also in an excellent state of preservation, is of enormous size This is indeed the most wonderful discovery of the day, and completely casts into the shade the time honored labors of a friend of ours. The elephant, as our readers are aware, is to be found but in India and Africa, and how this monster could have made its way into the very heart of America, is a question well worthy of investigation by all who take an interest in such matters. The bank in which it was found is of course a deposit, and thousands of years must have been consumed in forming the 60 feet of earth and gravel which covered the remains of it.—*Spectator.*

We should be extremely glad if Professor Croft, or some Geologist—perhaps there may be such living more convenient to the locality, without our being aware of it—would make an examination of the place where these extraordinary remains were found, and also of the remains themselves, and give us the benefit of their speculations upon them. The subject would be an exceedingly interesting one for a lecture before the Mercantile Library Association, or Mechanic's Institute; and we trust that it will be taken advantage of for the purpose. It might be well for the Mercantile Library Association to request Professor Croft to make the investigations, and give the society the benefit of them in a lecture He is eminently capable of doing so. We throw out the suggestion, and hope it may be acted upon.

Hamilton Gazette - Feb 5, 1852 Browse this newspaper »

DREADFUL ACCIDENT,—TEN LIVES LOST.

On Monday morning last, a dreadful calamity befel the laborers on the line of the Great Western Railroad, working at Burlington Heights, by the falling of a large portion of the bank, by which ten out of eleven workmen were killed. So sudden and unexpected was the fall, that although the foreman and another person were looking at the bank at the time, they were not able to get entirely away from the sand, and one of them was knocked down by a piece of the gravel. On the foreman, John C. Fuller, recovering himself and looking around, he saw the head of one of the men, Thomas McMahon, in the sand; and immediately ran and succeeded in extricating him, just before a second fall came, which would have completely covered him. McMahon, as well as all the other evidence, states that the bank had not been undermined, and that there was not more than six or seven feet of a slope, from the top to the base, that it did not appear dangerous, and that they would work in a similar place without being in the least afraid, thus showing that the accident did not occur through any negligence on the part of the contractors or foremen. The names of the unfortunate men who lost their lives, are William Temple, Timothy Glinn, Patrick Shae, Dennis Mack, Michael Conley, Andrew Conley, Robert Donnelly, John Hunt, Thomas Carson, and Geo. Drexlier. They were all Irishmen except the last, who was a Dutchman, and it is believed that he owned a farm in Waterloo.

As soon as the accident was made known in the city, an immense number of persons flocked to the scene, and a most heartrending picture it presented; the lamentations of the bereaved were great, while the exertions of the men to recover their lost comrades seemed almost superhuman. We have never seen a body of men in such an emergency, work so well and to the purpose; but human exertions availed not, as the vital spark of life had fled. Eight of the bodies were recovered before night, and it not being deemed safe to work the men all night, under the bank, their operations were postponed until next morning, when the other two bodies were recovered.

An inquest was held before H. B. Bull, Esq., coroner, and after a careful investigation of the whole matter, the following verdict was rendered:—

"That the deceased died from suffocation, in consequence of the falling of a bank of earth on the line of the Great Western Railway, the fall being purely accidental and not the fault of either contractors or overseers."

The following are the names of the Jurors, on this melancholy affair:—Henry W. Ireland, foreman, F. W. Watkins, John Harris, H. R. Macdonald, Wm. Myles, Lindsay Crawford, John Turner, O. Thompson, W. Atkins, A. M. Titus, R. Young, James Cummings, John Ross, James Osborne, A. Hamilton and E. R. Sullivan.

After the verdict had been recorded, the following presentment was signed by all the Jurors, and given to the coroner, with a request that a copy should be given to the contractors:—

To H. B. Bull, Esq., Coroner.

The Jury after hearing fully the evidence and maturely considering all the circumstances connected with the death of those ten individuals, are of opinion that their death was wholly the result of accident, and that no blame can be attached to the contractors, or those who had the more immediate oversight of that portion of the work where the accident occurred,—they having only pursued the same course with the excavations as formerly. But as experience has proved that this course is a dangerous one, having also on a former occasion proved fatal to some of the workmen, the jury would strongly urge upon the contractors to adopt some more safe mode of operation in this dangerous locality, and expose the workmen less to accident and certain death.

The Jury would also take this occasion to allude to the circumstance of some of the workmen having been at work on this portion of the road on the past Sabbath, and also on former Sabbaths, although forbidden by one of the Contractors. They regret to be called upon to refer to this, but they feel that they would be wanting in duty on this occasion not to take notice of this great abuse of the Sabbath, as well as abuse of the workmen themselves—and condemn such practices in the strongest manner; and they would call upon the Contractors to see that this may not henceforth be repeated, and that the Sabbath day may be made a day of rest to all under their employment.

Hamilton Gazette - Feb 5, 1852 Browse this newspaper »

As regards the latter part of the presentiment, we take it for granted that there can be but one opinion. Also in reference to the danger of the work, it is self evident, that any other safer course can be adopted than the one now in use we do not think practicable, although every one must admit the desirableness of such a course. We are aware that many ways have been devised to work this bank in safety, among the rest that of working it from the top; some three or four months since this plan was tried to be put in practice, but it was found to be even more dangerous than the present, and consequently abandoned, in one instance after several blasts had been put in the bank it became so shattered that it was unsafe to go near it and yet it did not give way, and eventually ropes had to be put round the bodies of the men lest the bank should give way while they were putting blast after blast into it without any apparent effect: we state this to show that the contractors have left no means untried to prevent such accidents as we have now to record.

Hamilton Gazette - Feb 9, 1852 Browse this newspa

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.

On Thursday morning last, two persons named William Shields and Charles McDowell, were drowned close to the Burlington Canal. They were both respectable Farmers residing in the back part of the Township of Nelson, and had started some time before daylight for the Grand River, to get two loads of Plaster. On coming to the Beach, before day, they entered the Tavern of Mr. Weal, and enquired the best way to get across the Canal as the ferry man was not there, they accordingly were directed to go round the Steamer, lying about a mile from the Canal, but they mistaking in the dark as is supposed, turned long before they got to it, and the foremost drove into the water, the other it is conjectured went to his assistance, as a whip was lying on the ice, and one of the span of horses was standing close to the brink, while the other could be seen in the water. Shortly after daylight the horses were seen from the shore, and a person went out to them, but on getting close they ran towards the South shore. The alarm was instantly given and every exertion made to recover the bodies, that of Shields was got during the afternoon, but up to Saturday evening that of McDowell had not been discovered. Shields leaves a wife and six children to deplore his untimely end—McDowell was unmarried, and was a brother to Mr. Samuel McDowell, Grocer, of this City.

Hamilton Gazette - Feb 16, 1852 Browse this newspaper »

DISTURBANCES OF THE WORKS OF THE G.W. RAILROAD.—Serious disturbances have taken place during the past week on the Railroad works going on near St. George among the Irish labourers employed on the works. The men from Tipperary, Kerry and Clare commenced fighting on Monday night, the 2nd inst., since which date the works have gradually suspended. Both parties had been gathering fire arms for a conflict, up to Wednesday evening last when the Railway Police from Copetown and Dundas arrived in time to prevent blood-shed. They have been active in disarming the men and a few arrests have been made, but the ring-leaders have managed to keep out of reach. One of the labourers had eleven balls fired through the shanty in which he lived, the family escaped unhurt though lying on the ground. A labourer named Eustus was discharged by the foreman for drunkness, he went away but returned with his brother armed with guns and fired at the foreman, who was with the men in the cutting, he providently was not hurt, both of the men made their escape. On Monday last four prisoners were brought before John Smith Esq., J P. charged with riot, after a lengthened examination one was committed for trial, two were bound over to keep the peace and the other was fined 10s and costs.—*Paris Star*.

Feb. 19, 1852

PROMIGIOUS.—For several months past, operations have been going on in the marsh near this town, with a view of securing a foundation for the piers of the proposed bridge over the Canal We understand that no bottom has as yet been found, and that all hopes of finding such a one as would be likely to bear the immense structure necessary to carry the Railroad over the Canal is nearly exhausted. They will probably render a "new cut", necessary, so that the Canal may be crossed where a foundation can be obtained.—Should this turn out to be the case, Dundas may, perhaps, profit by the discovery, not only in an improvement of the navigation, but by a knowledge of the fact, staring its inhabitants in the face that they are in reality *on the brink of the "bottomless pit."*—*Dundas Warder.*

Hamilton Gazette - Mar 4, 1852 Browse this news

INDIAN AFFAIRS--CRUELTY & OUTRAGE.

Just as we were going to press, we received *two* letters from eye-witnesses of the cruelties now being committed, UNDER THE SANCTION OF GOVERNMENT! upon the poor unfortunate settlers on the Indian lands, situated along the banks of the Grand River. The facts of their case have been often published,—and Government has frequently been appealed to, but alas! in vain,—their poverty, probably, is a crime—hence the fact that the ear of Responsible Government is closed to all complaints, save from favored minions—and the hand of cruel, remorseless injustice reeks in human agony—hence, it may be, that *four* families were, on Friday last, cruelly and unjustly turned out of house and home—their houses and little property—together with the remains of last harvest's produce scattered and destroyed! and themselves left to find friends and shelter in the cheerless, snow-clad woods; and this, too, by a band of Indians, armed as for war, with scalping knife and tomahawk, together with a sheriff's posse, also armed to the teeth. How long these things will continue, we cannot foresee—surely not long! It is almost incredible—but unfortunately tis too true, that under the management of the Indian Department, the most remorseless, unfeeling and unnecessary cruelties, have been and continue to be enacted against the unfortunate settlers, who may happen, unwittingly perhaps, to incur the dislike of the "powers that be," and this too, in the depth of winter. Something must be done, and we are somewhat astonished that the member for Haldimand should be indifferent or careless in the matter.

Mar. 8, 1852

DR. RAE, the Arctic traveller, arrived in our city last week, and spent a few days with his brothers here: he left on Saturday, for England. We are sorry to say that he brings no tidings of Sir John Franklin.

Hamilton Gazette - Mar 11, 1852 Browse this newspaper »

THE WEATHER.—On Monday night it commenced raining and almost every vestige of snow has disappeared. The floods in our streets on Tuesday were terrible, and many of our merchants cellars were flooded, some of them to the very top. A good deal of damage has resulted from the sudden thaw, and want of proper drainage in the City. We have often drawn the attention of our City Fathers to the absolute necessity of good sewerage, but it has been unheeded, and now, a large amount of property has been destroyed, in consequence of the neglect. Would it not be much more advantageous to the Tax payers, if—instead of arguing nice points of "*Etiquette*" and engendering party strife and animosity,—our law makers would put into practice the best method of preventing such inundations as those of Tuesday last.

Hamilton Gazette - Mar 11, 1852 Browse this newspa

OPENING OF NAVIGATION.

The *City of Hamilton* arrived at Wellington Square yesterday from Toronto, and will continue to make daily trips between those places, until permitted to enter Burlington Bay. We are informed that the Propeller *Lord Elgin* will leave Oswego about the 20th of this month, for Hamilton, also the steamer *Mazeppa* from Lewiston, at the same time, for the purpose of facilitating the transportation of goods to this port. Merchants in Hamilton, will do well to avail themselves of this opportunity, by notifying their Agents to ship accordingly.

From parties who arrived by the *City of Hamilton*, we are informed that attempts have been made to cut the steamer *Admiral* out of the Ice in Toronto Bay, for the purpose of placing her on the route between that place and Rochester, but their efforts have been unsuccessful, owing to the thickness of the ice; evidently showing that Toronto possesses no superior advantages over Hamilton in this respect.